

THE MCGILL DAILY

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Stealing pecan pie since 1911.

Monday, February 11, 1991

Twelve McGill students die in Gulf war

by Doug Saunders

The air-raid sirens shattered the air, startling McGill students as they hurried to class Thursday morning. Loud explosions followed, as a dozen students staggered and collapsed across the pavement and stairs of the Arts building.

And a crowd formed to watch McGill's Troops Out coalition stage their first 'die-in' to draw campus attention to the realities of civilian casualties in the Persian Gulf war.

Troops Out spokesperson Brian Schnarch said North America's media have failed to talk about the mass killing which has resulted from the mass bombing by Allied forces.

"They (journalists) are failing to mention the basic realities of war," Schnarch continued. "They send out a big smokescreen of lies and propaganda. 'Surgical strikes', a clean, antiseptic, Nintendo-style war."

"But we mustn't forget about the death, the devastation, the destruction, the misery, the horrors, the tears, the pain, the suffering, the dead," Schnarch said.

The group wants to 'bring the war home' to McGill, according to organizer Kristen Hutchinson.

"People here get apathetic because the media has made it a very technical war," Hutchinson said. "There's no talk of death."

Die-ins are part of a new wave of direct action protests. Originated by ACT-UP, a New York-based advocacy group for AIDS victims, the protests use shock tactics and dramatic displays to captivate crowds of passers-by.

Troops Out members said they are using die-ins to make a link between the war and its human



McGill students collapsed in mock death on the Arts Building steps Thursday at noon in protest of the war in the Persian Gulf.

implications. There has been very little coverage in the mainstream media of either Iraqi civilian casualties or of the peace movement in North America.

According to Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting, a media watchdog group, only one per cent of network airtime on the Gulf has been devoted to anti-war views.

While Troops Out draws attention to deaths in the Middle East, the province-wide Coalition Against War in the Gulf is planning a demonstration to publicize the cuts in social services that have been caused by Canada's military involvement in the war.

Troops Out organizer Chantal Sundaram said the demonstration will focus on the Canadian government's strategy of reducing social spending to pay for the war.

"The idea is to make a link between the war and the \$650 million in cuts to social spending, particularly education," Sundaram said.

Their action will be held Wednesday, February 13 at 15h in front of Roddick Gates, and will involve 40 student and community groups with sponsorship from l'Association nationale des étudiants et étudiantes du Québec (ANEQ), a province-wide student federation.

Feminists take over student government at Concordia

by Andrea Bain

Feminist candidates Eleanor Brown and Charlene Nero were elected to the co-presidency of the Concordia University Student Association (CUSA) late last Thursday.

Preliminary results indicated Brown and Nero took 696 of the 2320 ballots cast last week for the co-presidency. Only ten per cent of the student body showed up to vote.

"I wasn't surprised with the outcome," said Nero, "we're both very excited about the possibility of changing CUSA."

Still, Nero said, there was a tremendous backlash to the campaign. Many of their posters, which read "Feminism Works" were ripped down or defaced.

"Some people put up signs reading 'Why join a fraternity that won't let you rape your date?' over

our names," she said.

Nero has been actively involved in the Concordia Women's Collective and the Concordia Central America Committee. Brown is a staff writer with The Montreal Mirror.

Brown and Nero, both students in journalism, plan to introduce student handbooks as a more vital part of Concordia life.

"Health care and student survival in the city are extremely important. We also want to reach out to groups and clubs and get input, and get the books out by August, not October or November as has been done in past years," said Nero.

"After that, we'll see. I think things are going to look very different in a few months," she said.

The team of Lana Grimes and Kenneth Huck placed second, with

518 votes. The team promised to address "feminism, racism, discrimination and students with special needs."

Grimes said she was inspired to run on the co-presidential slate with Ken Huck after participating in both the anti-apartheid movement and Indigenous Peoples International. But she only declared two and a half weeks ago.

Huck has been active with Concordia's Québec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG) and has run for co-president before.

The most contentious candidates were Vince Cavallo and Joseph Bensimon who ran on a platform of a new school spirit (beer bashes) and elimination of the Goods and Services Tax and Provincial Sales Tax from textbooks.

When Bensimon attended an all-

City stonewalls blue collar talks

by Michael S. Mastarciyan

Montréal's 4700 unionized blue-collar employees plan to strike on February 13 unless a new contract agreement can be reached.

The employees, members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, are asking for a reduced work week and an 8 per cent wage increase.

Union spokesperson Michel Fontaine said implementing a 35 hour, four day week with longer days would be beneficial for both the city and the employees.

"We have seen the results of European, Canadian and Québec research studies on the effects of a reduced work week," says Fontaine, "changing the hours in this manner has been shown to increase productivity and motivation, reduce absenteeism, and has been more economically feasible and efficient for the employer."

Fontaine hopes a strike will be averted, but said union members voted 79.4 per cent in favour of a strike if negotiations fail. He could not understand why City Hall and the negotiators suddenly stopped communicating.

"They cancelled our January 14 meeting and now they refuse to meet with us. We don't know what's going on and all we have had until now have been maybes. All I can say is that we're ready to meet them right now," Fontaine said.

The current contract is effective until December 31, 1991, but the

collective labour agreement on work hours ended last December 31. Negotiations for a new agreement began last June while discussions about essential services are ongoing.

Liza Novak, a representative of Action Travail des Femmes is worried that the potential strike may have negative effects on the hiring of women for blue-collar positions.

Novak points out that there are two ways of looking at the present crisis.

"If the demand for a shorter work week is conducive to job creation for women we're in favour of it," she said.

But Novak fears the strike may hamper the chances of many women currently on waiting lists for blue-collar type jobs.

"Women have waited long enough, we don't want to see women lose jobs or for hiring to be blocked because of a strike," she said.

Fontaine said he is anxious for a resolution and thinks one will be arrived at eventually. But the sooner the settlement, the better.

"We're waiting for them (the employers) to call us, we have always been open to negotiate," Fontaine said.

A potential strike would affect services in the City of Montréal and the Montréal Urban Community.

Spokespeople for the City were unavailable for comment.

continued on page 6

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Natives: animal rights group still misinformed

by Kathleen Hickey

Native groups expressed anger over Students' Society's decision last Thursday to continue funding META, a campus animal rights group.

"We'll just sue them, that's all," said Bob Stevenson, the executive director of the Aboriginal Trappers Federation of Canada.

"That might be the only meaningful activity we can pursue."

Stevenson was objecting to the compromise struck when Nursing rep Mark Saul withdrew part of his motion to stop funding META, McGill for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

The revised motion would require Students' Society groups to inform certain First Nations organizations when planning activities that might have a negative economic impact on native peoples, including protests against fur harvesting.

"What, they'll just have to tell us they're going to kill off our traditional way of life?" Stevenson asked.

When Saul introduced the motion, he called META "ethnocentric and ignorant." He cited native peoples' right to economic and political self-determination, a right officially recognized by Students' Society.

Saul also said that META's opposition to the fur trade amounts to a condemnation of aboriginal traditions by the "agriculturalist south".

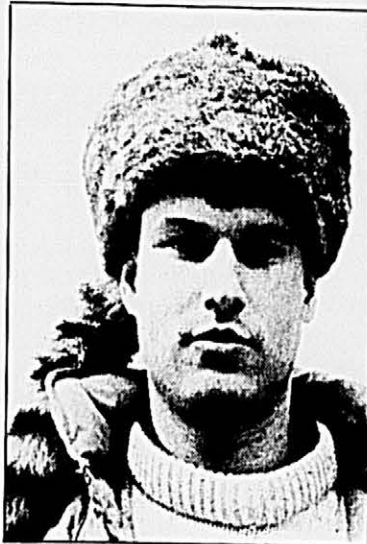
The motion called on Students' Society to disavow all references to the fur trade in the META constitution, to cease funding all anti-fur trade activities by the animal rights group, and ask other Students' Society groups to notify First Nations councils of possibly damaging activities.

But META president Steve Leckie said his organization does recognize First Nations peoples' right to trap and trade furs.

In their position paper on trapping, META proposes that aboriginal trappers distinguish their furs from "non-native" furs.

The organization would not object to these particular furs and "people would buy them knowing their entire investment would be supporting First Nations."

The evenly-split debate at Council focused on three main points: whether META's opposi-



Mark Saul, nursing rep to council, withdrew motion to stop funding META

tion to the fur industry (besides aboriginal trapping) is inherently racist, whether META's activities interfere with aboriginal self-determination and whether META has a right to freedom of speech on campus.

Leckie said that META is tar-

getting the fur industry in general, especially for its practises of ranching animals for fur and 'western' trapping.

"You have to ask, does native trapping constitute animal abuse? I would say that it does not," Leckie explained.

Saul acknowledged META's attempts when he withdrew his initial motion to stop Students' Society funding.

"I commend Steve Leckie of META for having come a long way in recognizing indigenous hunting and trapping rights," he said. "To my knowledge no other animal rights group has done so. Still, the battle is not over. First Nations people need our support, not our condemnation."

Stevenson said that his organization agrees with animal rights groups' stance that animals should be cared for and dealt with in a humane manner. New technology and ongoing education for native trappers combined with traditional methods ensure that animals are trapped in the most humane way, he



Steve Leckie, META president, suggested separate labelling for furs trapped by Natives

said.

Still, by targeting the fur industry as a whole, animal rights activists are damaging the native fur trade according to First Nations groups.

"These groups definitely have a big impact," said Willie Iserhoff, the director of the Traditional Pur-

suits Agency of the Grand Council of the Crees of Québec. "You can't say it won't affect aboriginal people; it will affect their economics. Once you affect the fur industry you're also affecting traditional aboriginal activities."

Iserhoff pointed to The Hudson's Bay Company's decision to pull out of the fur industry. "That's where they started off. They say it's not because of the anti-fur groups, but we can clearly see that it has to do with them."

Stevenson said that the native fur trade relies heavily on the non-native fur industry because natives don't own tanning factories or control merchandising. For this reason, aboriginal trappers aren't able to distribute their fur separately.

"White people who have been involved with native people in the fur trade understand indigenous people more than these activists do," Iserhoff added.

"I wish that these anti-fur groups would challenge themselves to come up North and find out what it's like to live off the land."

Me, mom and master planning

by Anne Kuriakose

When Montréal planners began the city's Master Plan, McGill University was slated as the "gateway to the Mountain", bridging Mount Royal and the downtown area.

But when the plans were drawn up, McGill campus was zoned into two districts. 90 per cent of the campus was covered by both the Ville-Marie Downtown plan and the Mont Royal plan.

According to Jeanne Wolfe, Director of Urban Planning at McGill's School of Architecture, the city was chopped into several districts to be looked at in isolation because the planners lacked a coherent vision of how the city should look.

"The Master Planners had no overriding objectives for the city, no themes like 'le ville internationale' or 'le ville environnementale'. They felt that the urban environment was already structured by existing development and transportation networks," Wolfe said.

According to Chuck Adler, Manager of Physical Resources for McGill, the City told McGill plan-

ners to work more intimately with the Mont Royal group to ensure the protection of the view from Mont Royal and surrounding buildings such as Royal Victoria Hospital.

The new Master Plan, approved last October, includes building height limits of three stories from Pine Avenue northward, to prevent the development of more high rises. The Plan also includes specifications on land use and density restrictions.

According to the Plan, McGill campus will be zoned as institutional except for Peel Street between Sherbrooke and Dr. Penfield which is classified as "residence dominant".

Brian Karasick, a physical planner for McGill, said these designations are only recommendations and individual buildings with a specific area can be used in different ways.

"The Master Plans are to be understood as a framework for development," said Adler. They are only guidelines for city policy which will then be used to draft individual by-laws about development in the

districts.

McGill's proposed Athletics Complex has been met with various responses.

The August 1990 preliminary draft of the Mont Royal Master Plan by the city-appointed Bureau de consultation did not approve the proposed construction.

But the October 1990 report of the Executive Committee of City Council disputed much of the August report and was highly supportive of the Athletics project.

Construction on the new complex still awaits the decision by city politicians to sell the park land threatened by the new complex. Community groups are protesting this infringement on city green space.

But according to Karasick, "McGill is willing to make the new gym accessible to the public, including drop-in facilities for summer and winter Mount Royal Park users."

The University has recently proposed converting McTavish street into a pedestrian thoroughfare. This project was supported by the first

draft of the Mont Royal Master Plan.

According to Adler, McTavish street is one of the few areas of the campus set out exclusively in the Mont Royal plan. It calls for the conversion to pedestrian use within the first phase of the plan. This is supposed to be implemented over the next four years, but McGill is lobbying to begin sooner.

The city would have to close the road to traffic and then redesign the entire street.

This conversion would serve not only McGill, but also the greater city community, said Wolfe. Pedestrian access to Mont Royal is currently being studied due to concern over the few real entrances to the mountain.

When Frederick Law Olmstead designed Mont Royal Park over 100 years ago he had planned for "green fingers" to extend southward from the Park.

The City has proposed consultations with institutions to discuss specific needs to be included in the Master Plan. These meetings will take place over the next three years.

COUNCIL BRIEFS

Executive wants more dough

A proposal by council's Joint Management Committee to raise executive salaries and bring the vice presidents' salaries to the same level as the president's was widely opposed.

Graduate rep Daron Westman said it would send the wrong message to students if Council tried to "cushion executive members" at a time of budget cutbacks and tuition hikes.

Eric Darier, another grad rep agreed. "\$9000 a year in salary is substantial enough for students," he said.

President Kate Morisset supported the motion because she said "we work close to 60 hours a week in reality." The executive are expected to work a 20 hour week.

Chrissy Echols responded by pointing out that McGill athletes dedicate five or six hours a day to their sport while studying full-time without earning a cent.

Constitutional reform

Students' Society passed its new constitution to go to referendum this spring with few changes.

An amendment to publish all Council by-laws, policy statements and the constitution in both French

and English was accepted after some debate over which version of the constitution should be considered an official interpretation.

Since the French version will be a direct translation by the Office de la langue française Council decided that both versions would be official.

A proposal by Darier to make all Council executive meetings public except in the event of a confidential session was defeated.

The constitution will be put to referendum March 12 to 14. Morisset will chair the yes committee for the new constitution, while Mary Margaret Jones will

head up the pro-affirmative action clause committee.

The great debate continues

Nursing rep Mark Saul's motion to limit McGill for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (META) criticism of the fur trade sparked a lengthy debate.

Saul called META "ethnocentric and ignorant" in its policy to condemn all fur industry activities except those involving native people.

William Nichols, a Québec Cree, spoke to Council and emphasized that the fur industry is an integral

part of native culture and "for META to impose its values on us would be wrong."

Saul withdrew his first motion for Council to stop funding META, but he made a second suggestion which was referred to policy committee.

His motion said that all Student Society groups which pursue activities that interfere with the economic self-determination of aboriginal people or condemn their trapping practices must inform native groups of their activities.

Some members of council were concerned that this motion would deny META freedom of speech.

-by Michelle Cooper

THE MCGILL DAILY

"This motion to council is very consistent with what this executive has been trying to do all year."

- Students' Society VP Finance Jane Howard, in reference to a motion to hike executive salaries by 25 per cent next year.

COMMENT

No blood for boredom

"As long as nationalists live under British rule, then the British cabinet will have to meet in bunkers," said the Irish Republican Army after its spectacular mortar shell attack on Number 10 Downing St. on Thursday.

Yet as western forces carpet-bomb Baghdad, and SCUD attacks rip up the Middle East, North Americans continue to sleepwalk passively home, or to the office, or across campus. We don't need to consider buying gas masks or stocking up on water — the mildest of the discomforts the people of the Middle East must endure.

So a little simulated terror and symbolic intervention, as McGill's Troops Out coalition practiced at Thursday's 'Die In', is an appropriate response to this country's undeserved complacency.

We didn't want to believe war was coming, though it was obvious in August. We did not organize, nor did we educate ourselves. And now that war is here, we have been moved to action, but we haven't followed from our emotions to a coherent political analysis of events in the Gulf.

As a result, the anti-war movement has seemed like a horde of peaceniks, seeking no particular resolution, no particular goals beyond a ceasefire.

While this image, especially as seen on TV, is unfair to many serious activists, it's overgenerous to the half-committed chanters and peace flag wavers who've come to many demos and meetings just to party like it's 1969.

Nostalgia, sentiment and groovy luv are no solution. People need clear statements about why the movement believes the war should end.

And we need creativity. Like the AIDS crisis, the urgency of the cause should bring out overwhelming energies, and these should be directed towards transforming the political climate at home. Borrowing the Die In concept from ACT UP is a good start, but this tactic should be followed by new and outrageous strategies designed to 'bring the war home' to our own lazy minds.

The anti-war movement, judging by public opinion before the war began, could have been a grassroots slap to the placid face of world power. But no one will be attracted to a movement with no more imagination than the lunkheads it's opposing.

It's still early. The anti-nuclear and anti-Vietnam movements captured world attention only after years of slow education and mobilization. The anti-Gulf War movement has been as 'instant' as the war itself, and has suffered for it.

For better or worse, it may have plenty of time to sharpen up.

Carl Wilson
Susana Béjar

LETTERS

Distinguishing need from want

To the Daily:

Marc Saul has labeled META "racist" and has requested its funding be cut. His logic is as follows: because META has an anti-fur platform it is opposed to Native peoples' way of life. Of course, simplistic explanations are never very revealing.

META has always differentiated between the "subsistence" and "commercial" use of fur; between *need* and *want*, between choice and its absence. It is the commercial use of fur that META opposes. Mr. Saul's contention that this opposition reflects ethnocentrism and racism is not only unfounded, it is stupid. By his logic, public health officials who oppose the use of cigarettes are racist towards tobacco growers.

Animal rights groups are opposed to the commercial use of fur because of its inherent cruelty. Marc Saul's criticism is not a response to the fur issue alone. He is deeply intolerant of animal rights in general, as one can see in an

article he wrote two years ago in response to META's formation;

"I don't know whether it was ignorance, insensitivity or simply callous racism that produced the illogical and dangerous ideology of McGill for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, but I feel that all caring individuals must fight against the activity of these lunatics who consider human rights irrelevant in their quest for animal liberation" (*McGill Daily*, Feb. 17th, 1988).

"Lunatics"? "Racist"? This is the kind of intolerance that informs Mr. Saul's request to cut META's funding. As a councillor of Student Society, which claims to represent the diverse interests of the student body, his views are way too narrow.

I believe that many people recognize that there is a great deal of senseless animal suffering, and that efforts to both alleviate it and raise awareness about it is a good thing. META should be further supported: its aims are honourable.

Anne Valley
Arts

contributors

Ardith Walkem, Jens Kohler, Christine Redfern, Michael S. Mastarciyan, Michelle Cooper, Anne Kuriakose, Lina Saigol, Cheryl Bird, Doug Saunders, Andrea Bain, Peter Clibbon, Eric Smiley, Colleen Lashuk.



DAILY GRAPHIC: CHRISTINE REDFERN

Get it straight

To the Daily:

Lorne Belles in his letter implies that our media are not plagued by an anti-Arab bias. Lorne is right. The Western media don't even know who the Arabs are.

A Gazette article on the Arab world's response to the war in the Gulf begins by quoting Iranian president Rafsanjani. Mr. Rafsanjani is, however, Iranian and not Arab. The language of Iran is Farsi, an Indo-European language as remote from the Semitic language Arabic as Cree is from Swahili.

Today most Arabs are Muslims, but there are significant Christian Arab communities as well, like the Syrian Orthodox, the Egyptian Copts, or the Lebanese Maronites. And not all Muslims are Arabs - the world of Islam also includes many Malaysians, Iranians, Chinese, Indonesians, Pakistanis, Sri Lankans, Black Africans and Black Americans. Any reporter with just one healthy lobe of brain tissue should know this.

The Arab world is defined racially and linguistically; the Islamic world is defined by a common belief in one God and his Prophet, Muhammad. Neither of these two, often intersecting but not identical, worlds has a single monolithic perception of the Gulf war.

The Western media couldn't give a flying fuck about the ethnic and religious diversity of the Middle East. Nor do they care too much about Iraqi casualties. Perhaps they could start by finding out who the Iraqis are (hint - a majority Arab population of Sunni and Shiite Muslims with a significant minority of Indo-European Kurds).

Personally, I believe all Iraqis to be human beings, whose deaths are worthy of being mourned like those of any other human being - no matter whether they are killed by Hussein's chemical weapons and firing squads, or by U.S. and allied bombs.

Mark Saul
Nursing U2

Arab nationalism

To the Daily:

I am deeply shocked at the blatant ignorance demonstrated by Ms. Saigol in her article of January 24.

Ms. Saigol insists that the Arab world is a homogeneous entity of "one people and one land". She also contends that "Israel sees itself as part and parcel of America".

It is very possible that this claim arises from a scarcity of concrete facts on her part. However, it is also plausible that attached to these ideas is a tinge of anti-U.S., anti-Israel bias.

In her article, Ms. Saigol has marvelously succeeded in playing upon unfounded anti-American rhetoric. Perhaps she spews out her ideas in the hope of convincing *Daily* patrons who are not well-read on the issue at hand, hoping to strike an emotional, but irrational chord.

Ms. Saigol, for the past twenty-one years, the 'united' Arab people have proven enough times how divided they really are.

Are you aware of "Black September", September 1970?

The PLO was forcefully expelled from Jordan, because of their attempt to overthrow the king. Then they fled to Lebanon, again attempting to create a Palestinian state. This caused many Lebanese to flee the war-torn country (before the 1982 Israeli involvement). Is this not accurate, Ms. Saigol?

Arab unity brought us the Egypt-Lybia disputes, the Iraq-Syria power struggles, and most recently the illegal Iraqi "repossession" of Kuwait. My, oh my, what a happy family!

I can draw no other conclusion than simply to doubt the accuracy of Ms. Saigol's other claims.

Ms. Saigol, so as to avoid making unreasonable allegation or remarks in the future, please do your homework. This is not the McGill Senate, this is real life.

Yaron Starosta
B.Comm. U1

No Western intervention

To the Daily:

Your recent editorial in The McGill Daily raises some very pertinent questions and concerns in respect of Canada's role in the Persian Gulf war.

From the point of view of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, a worldwide movement, I only need to mention the observation of the Supreme Head of the movement, His Holiness Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, who in the light of the teachings of the Holy Quran, maintained that the differences between two Muslim nations should be settled by Muslims themselves, and if on a party is driven to the use of force, the Muslim nations jointly act against the transgressor.

In no case should the Western countries commit their forces in the area. Strictly from the point of view of a Canadian, I strongly believe that it is not merely a question of tax dollars for the Gulf War. It is a question of principle. Should Canada, which is perceived as a country of keeping peace around the world, involve itself to clean up a mess created by an arrogant U.S. President? Canada, by participating in the Persian Gulf, has lost a great international stature of peace. This is a very big price the Canadians have to pay for a hasty decision of jumping on the American band wagon.

Canada cannot afford a war of this magnitude and should try to extricate itself from the mess which appears to have no ending.

Canada is already beset with problems of the people of the First Nations, refugees coming from all corners of the world, people with disability, the collapse of the farm economy and the Maritime fisheries. As the proverb puts it, "charity begins at home."

Naseem Mahdi
President, Ahmadiyya Movement

David J. Felsen, your letter's too long. Come down to the Union building in the sky, and chop it up.

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Intervening in rural depopulation

On a futuristic highway from Montréal to the Gaspé, a tourist passes miles of pot-holed roads lined with overgrown bush. Monstrous, concrete structures pepper the route, blowing grey haze into the sky. Seeing what could be a human limping into view, the tourists stops and asks if this is "Rural Québec." The creature scoffs, welcoming the visitor to a land now bereft of inhabitants, overtaken by incineration plants and toxic dumps.

HEATHER MACKAY

Last week, Montréal hosted *les États généraux du monde rural*, an open forum on the crisis of rural depopulation. The event attracted healthy media attention in the press province-wide and organizers said it marked a new phase of desperation for the province's 1.2 million rural people. Only this time they said the desperation is turning into action.

Representatives of the rural world announced an economic and cultural crisis that could drive many of their communities off the map. Groups as diverse as the Maple Producers of Québec and The Rural Youth Association submitted position papers defending a way of life they say is deeply threatened, calling for initiatives to reverse the trend.

Bernard Vachon, a rural planner and professor with UQAM's geography department, helped coordinate the conference. He has been working with rural communities in Québec for many years, bringing with him experience he gathered in France and Belgium through his activities with rural intervention.

"I think we're passing from that period of diagnostic studies to the period of strategy and action," he said, adding that Québec may be catching up with a movement that has been progressing for 20 years in Western Europe. Recent activities in France show that local protest tactics lag behind their European equivalents.

"The ferocity of the confrontation between riot police and French farmers has been on an unprecedented scale - baton charges, tear-gas, mass arrests and above all hysteria. What began as a sheep war has now spilled over into other areas mostly concerned with the imminent reduction of subsidies," the *Western Ontario Farmer* reported last December.

But Vachon said the mood at home is peaking. "I meet everywhere people who are fed up. They are very angry with a government that has abandoned them — a government that is not capable of taking care of communities."

Instead, all levels of government have been selling the 'trickle down' theory of economic survival.

"There was a belief that if Montréal became Québec's financial capital, rural areas would automatically benefit from the city's richness," said Vachon. "Instead we saw the opposite happen. Rural areas became more and more poor. As well, rural people migrated to cities, adding themselves to the ur-

ban poor."

Immigration to Canada has been managed within this optic of centralization, said Vachon. This same centralized vision has driven immigrants into urban areas at the expense of a diversified and strengthened rural world.

COLD MOLASSES

The present flow of immigrants to rural areas anywhere in Canada is slightly less than a trickle. Studies in ethnic demography concentrate on differences between Canada's largest centres, usually no more than 14 key cities.

There is little emphasis on rural settlement, according to the Canadian Ethnocultural Council, an Ottawa-based advocacy agency that works on behalf of 37 immigrant groups. Its acting director, Bernard Bouska, is quick to point out the roadblocks faced by immigrants wishing to settle in rural areas. Bouska said the isolation of rural Canada cannot provide the built-in support systems provided by the ethnic communities of larger centres.

"A person may come here from Vietnam, a person from a rural background. This person could be very isolated in rural Québec," said Bouska. "They could prefer to be among members of their own community."

For many newcomers to Québec, rural settlement is not even a possibility. Immigration Canada can direct people in most cities to employment centres, clothing and food depots, and metropolitan support networks. In contrast, a desk clerk at Montréal's downtown immigration office could not even say if there were any immigrants currently living in rural Québec.

Bouska said new immigrants are not settling in the country for obvious financial reasons. "The more money you put into city support systems, the fewer the resources that go to rural areas. Whether the government intends it or not is a moot point."

However, for the ruralists who gathered last week at *les États généraux*, the damage done to their way of life is rife with intent, and most of it bad.

A good majority of Québec's 600 smallest municipalities are in extreme danger of extinction, said Vachon. "This was a political choice. Governments concentrated their efforts on urban areas. Consequently rural areas became victims," he said.

The process of rural depopula-

tion figures as an integral part of centralized government. "Québec technocrats think it's a normal process," said Vachon. And federal immigration policies have only heightened the focus on urban centres at the expense of the province's far flung communities.

Vachon said he thinks it is impossible to save all of the disappearing communities, but agreed that old immigration policies could stand to be revamped. "We must build a new model."

SKIRTING THE CORPORATE BEND

The World War periods brought thousands of European immigrants to farming areas in Canada. Many were experienced farmers in their home countries who brought insight which spread through local agriculture.

But over the last forty years the start-up costs of farming have escalated beyond the means of many local people. These difficulties are compounded for new immigrants who must adjust to different soils, strange climatic conditions, new kinds of techniques and products and often a very foreign way of life.

Vachon said that despite the current corporate bend of farming, parts of rural Québec still provide accessible, affordable cropland. Beyond the regions closest to Montréal and Québec City, areas like Bas St-Laurent and the Townships contain pockets of reasonably priced land.

Carol Woods is a farmer outside of St-Jerome, just north of Montréal, who has trouble believing newcomers to her community could eke out a good living. She said, "People who have lived here all their lives are looking for ways to supplement their incomes."

Woods followed *les États généraux* in the local media and said she thinks the initiatives put forward, including emphasis on immigration, are the right ones. But she added that her experience with various government departments holds her back from sharing the enthusiasm of the conference. Beyond the exclusionary protection of marketing boards, rural communities have few lobbying options. "We don't have the political power," she said.

Many local immigrant support groups were pleased last week when the federal government passed on to Québec the powers to control immigration. Though it may feel like a step away from centralized government, the participants at *les États généraux* insist decentralization will only come when immigration is distributed throughout all of Québec.

The conference program, produced by *La Terre de chez nous*, North America's only french agriculture newspaper, warns of a growing *fossé culturel*. As cities become more and more multi-ethnic, rural regions retain their homogeneity. Not only could the gap make provincial politics unwieldy, but rural residents will not profit from the diversity of the big cities.



IN SEARCH OF THE SMALL TOWN CLERK

"We must first change settlement policies and create specific incentives to draw immigrants to rural Québec," said Vachon. He suggested changes to the criterion used to determine who may immigrate into Canada. The current emphasis on financial stability, training in mostly non-rural trades, and professional accreditation may have to play second fiddle to a new set of skills.

"We could select people coming to Québec from rural areas - farmers, sailors, small town clerks — people who have a professional expertise in rural life," said Vachon.

Research in local rural planning has turned up many village stores that have no next generation of shopkeepers. Statistics compiled by the Union of Local Municipalities show just how serious the crisis is.

In the 15 years between 1971 and 1985, most generations living in the l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue decreased in number by about 20 per cent. The generation now in their late twenties registered the sharpest population decline at about 27 per cent. But considering that some municipalities, such as parts of the Gaspé, have unemployment levels

as high as 65 per cent, these figures are not much of a surprise.

In the end, *les États généraux* made a strong case for community control of Québec's local economies. The absence of immigration got on the list of the three demographic dangers a new rural policy of social organisation must confront.

As tensions between urban subcultures shoot up the danger-meter, the folklore of rural intolerance is losing ground to the cold brutality of the cities. Bouska said the consequences of forcing all new immigrants into cities could make outside regions more tempting alternatives for members of ethnic groups who wish to avoid urban ghettoization and violence. "It may be more cost-effective in the long run to emphasize rural immigration," he said.

Futuristic scenarios of urban population problems are frightening on their own. But surround these cities with depopulated, degraded countryside and the 'ignorance' of government settlement policies rings out like bells. In the meantime, Bernard Vachon and others will use the success of *les États généraux* to push for a plan of action. "Rural people have said we don't accept any more the fatality of rural life."

Chemical scare in MacDonald building

by Lina Saigol

A woman fainted last week in the MacDonald Engineering building, possibly because of escaped lab fumes.

An investigative report was done by McGill in response to what witness Joanne Wilmot thought to be "fumes wafting around the building".

According to Wayne Wood, manager of McGill's Health And Safety Security Office, "The woman was fasting. She had a fever and stomach flu. The gasoline fumes were connected to her fainting, but they weren't concentrated enough to make someone under normal health circumstances faint."

Wood said McGill would not undertake a full investigation because the complaint was based on health reasons only. Although McGill has had some problems with fumes that enter offices from vehicles, they have never had any serious gas leaks he said.

When a complaint is received from any department, the Health and Safety Security Office tracks down the source of the odours. But according to Wood, "air samples have a limited usefulness when the incidents are short-lived."

The chemical engineering department's safety committee has a system of accountability in place to prevent chemical hazards. Before any research is done with chemicals, a proposal must be submitted stating exactly which chemicals will be used.

The department insists on a check-out system for all chemicals to be housed or disposed of.

An on-going, in-house consultation process trains everyone from cleaners to vice-principals on issues such as radiation safety technology for those working with radioactive isotopes. Several workers on campus work with carcinogenic and radioactive materials.

According to Wood, "there are no safe substances in existence, only safe ways of handling them which we are doing our utmost to implement."

...Concordia

continued from page 1

candidates meeting last Thursday he verbally abused a member of the audience, saying, "You should listen to what I'm saying. It's not my fault if you're not paying attention to what I have to say."

Bensimon and Cavallo received only 402 votes.

The election comes on the heels of CUSA's impeachment of former co-president Stuart Letovsky.

Letovsky was thrown out of office last month after CUSA went \$47,000 in debt from the Enviro-Rock Concert he organized last September. A further \$8000 in legal fees was spent on the impeachment.

EVENTS

Monday February 11

Discussion/Support group for students from dysfunctional families. FREE. Info: 398-6244 (6243). The Yellow Door, 3625 Aylmer. 14h30.

Students Taking Action Against Discrimination are meeting and all are welcome. Info: Cindy at 845-9171. Hillel House, 3460 Stanley. 16h.

"Troops Out" general meeting. Union 310, 3480 McTavish. 19h.

Ongoing

The Pillar is McGill's arts/literary magazine. It wants submissions. Info: 398-4183. Drop off at Pillar mailbox, SSMU desk, 3480 McTavish, or Pillar office, 3479 Peel, 3rd Floor. Deadline 22 February.

The Red Herring is McGill's humour magazine (but not the only funny one). It wants submissions. Drop off at the Red Herring office, 4th Floor Union, 3480 McTavish. Deadline 11 March.

"Regarding the Indian" is the new exhibit in the McLennan Library Lobby. Regular hours.

Earth is calling. Go to the "Endangered Species: Endangered Species" exhibit at Redpath Museum. 9h-17h.

**Newswriters meeting
16h
today.
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B-03.**

The Daily needs writers for a series on racism in Montréal. Got a story to tell? Come to Union B-03 today at 11h.

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Daily staff meeting, 17h in Onion B-03

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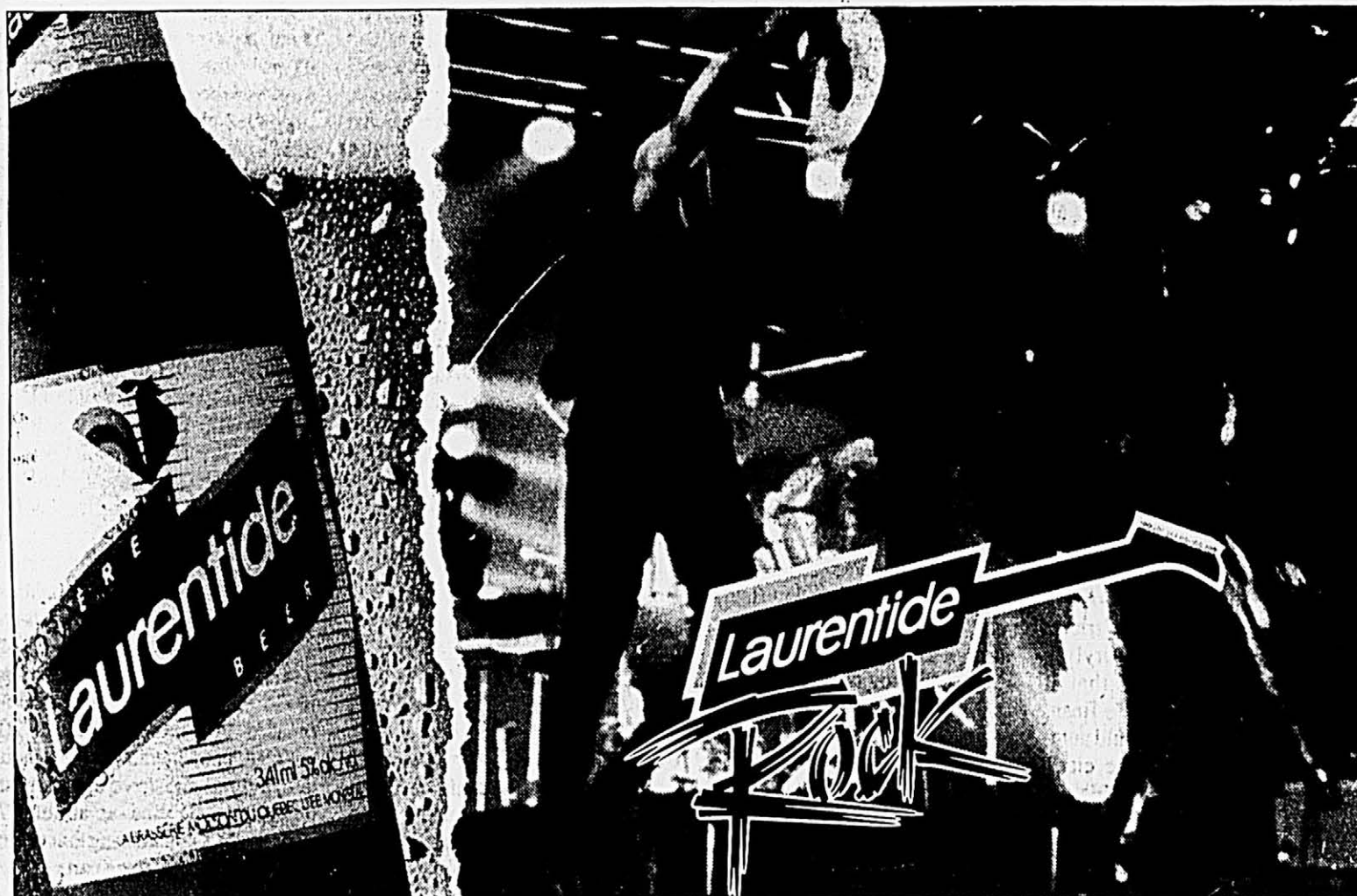
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McGill students: \$3.50 per day; \$2.50 for 3 consecutive days, \$2.25 for 4 or more consecutive days. McGill Faculty and Staff: \$4.50 per day. All others: \$5.00 per day. There is a 25 word limit. There will be a charge of 25¢ for each word over the limit. Boxed ads are available at \$4.00 per ad per day - no discounts on boxing. EXACT CHANGE ONLY PLEASE.

The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damage due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

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352 - Help Wanted

Help wanted: legal review of language laws. Qualifications: interest in public policy. Compensation: joint authorship of new "federalist paper." Publisher: Task Force on Federalism. Contact: D.C. Donderi, days 398-6130, eves. 486-3631.

Swimming director needed for country day camp for summer 1991. Call 484-5226 between 10-3 Mon.-Fri.

356 - Typing Services

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361 - Articles for Sale

Leather jackets, new. Black or brown, all sizes. Great quality only \$225 (no tax!) Call 848-0239 (anytime).

Single bed-box spring and mattress for sale. New and in excellent condition. From Sears. \$100. Call 843-8985.

Book for sale: At low prices. College texts in all fields. (Large number of math texts). Also rare Jadaica (Hebrew and Yiddish). Call 735-7534.

367 - Cars for Sale

1980 - Volvo - dark green - no rust - excellent mechanical condition. Moving - must sell - 939-9819.

370 - Rides

Plane ticket: Montreal to Calgary, round-trip (male). Reading week - Sat. Feb. 16-Sun. Feb. 24. \$325 or best offer. Call Cory at 845-3405.

Driving to Boston? Do you have any room for an extra person? I am looking for a ride, will split all expenses. Call Anne-Marie 527-3890.

372 - Lost & Found

Lost - Red Budweiser baseball cap at Gert's Thursday Jan. 31. Of extreme sentimental value. Reward offered. Please call 398-9424 ASAP!

Lost - Alfred Sung wrist watch (brown strap) on Wednesday, February 6th. Please call Joe at 697-3939.

374 - Personals

Is your closet getting too small? Gays and Lesbians of McGill offers an information/counseling talkline. Call with questions, problems or just to talk. Phone 398-6822 or drop by Union 417 M-F, 7-10.

Awake at 2:30am with no one to speak to? Call McGill Nightline 398-6246. 6pm to 3am nightly. We love to listen!

383 - Lessons Offered

LSAT, GMAT and GRE preparation courses - Take our 20 hour intensive weekend courses prior to each exam. Tuition fee - \$190. For information call 1 800 387-5519.

Creative writing workshop w/Charlotte Hussey starts 27 February, 7-10pm, at Centre Strathearn, 3680 Jeanne-Mance. Register by 18 Feb: 849-0552.

385 - Notices

Lesbian/Gay discussion group held Fridays at The Yellow Door Coffee House (3625 Aylmer) at 17:30.

If you need help sorting out your legal problems call or drop by the McGill Legal Information Clinic in January. We're here for you from M to Fri., 10-5 pm. • 398-6792 • Rooms B20, B21, B01B of the Student Union Building.

Audition February 22nd. Singer-Actor(s) Musical Revue. Call 487-1204 after 5:00 pm.

Auditions: Feb. 11 & 13 for Players' production of Robert David MacDonald's Summit Conference. April 23-27, 30-May 4. Sign up in Arts building lobby or call 398-6813.

QuébecPIRG-McGill will reimburse the \$3.00 student fee to anyone wishing to relinquish their membership. Students should come to Eaton, rm. 505 between 12pm and 4pm from now until Feb. 15.

Pray for peace - A 15 minute prayer vigil takes place every noon hour in the University Chapel, 3520 University.

389 - Musicians Wanted

Professional and volunteer sopranos, altos, tenors and basses for Shaare Zion Synagogue Choir. For information and audition please call 486-3298.

393 - Parking Services

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(1 undergraduate and 1 graduate)	
APPC Sub-committee on University Teaching and Learning (CUTL) (1 undergraduate and 1 graduate)	2
University Admissions and Scholarships committee (UASC)	5
(1 from residence)	
UASC Sub-committee on Admissions	1
UASC Sub-committee on Scholarships	1
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CTSR Sub-committee on Timetabling	1
CTSR Sub-committee on Sessional Dates	1
CTSR Student Records Working Groups (CSRWG)	1
Senate Committee on Libraries (SCL)	3
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Senate Committee on Continuing Education (SCCE)	2
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SCCE Sub-committee on Courses and Programs	1
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Committee of Physical Development	2
Committee on Student Discipline	3
Committee on Student Grievances	4
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Appeals Committee for Student Discipline and Grievances	4
	(2 alternates)
Committee on Women	2
Space Allocation committee	2
Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee	4
University Museums & Collections committee	2
Joint committee on the Disabled	1

COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON STUDENT SERVICES (CCSS)

CCSS - Health Services Advisory Board	3
CCSS - Counselling Services Advisory Board	2
CCSS - International Students' Health Insurance	2
CCSS - University Residences	1

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Further information on Senate Committee may be obtained from the Information Kiosk or by contacting Deborah Pentesco (VP University Affairs)

398-6797

How? "

"General Application" forms are available at the Information Kiosk or at the Students' Society General Office
Union 105, 3480 McTavish St.

Submit Completed applications to:

Leslie Copeland, Operations Secretary
SSMU General Office

No Later than Feb. 15th, 1991

Tilting at windmills for our energy future

by Eric Smiley and Peter Clibbon

Scientists and environmentalists are pointing to wind power as a cheap, clean and inexhaustible energy alternative. Wind power could become the most efficient power source within the next decade.

"Wind energy is now the cheapest method of generating electricity that can be installed," the British Wind Energy Association declared in 1987, following recent improvements in wind turbine technology.

"It is cheaper than nuclear power, producing no radioactivity. And cheaper than coal without producing acid rain. In fact, it is cheaper than any of the other energy alternatives."

But structuring Canada's energy policy around wind power would require great changes to the country's power network. Wind energy is modular, it is flexible and quick to install, making rapid changes and improvements possible.

The present system in Canada is centralized, and favours the cheaper short-term costs of conventional mega-project technology. Most wind resources are concentrated far from urban centers.

Tumbling turbines

Not that the potentials of wind power have gone unacknowledged in Canada. But the government has preferred to explore these with large-scale projects whose sheer size has made them unstable.

"A turbine generating 200 kilowatts is the maximum size one can build before its dimensions make it fall victim to the structural weaknesses of its construction materials," said Robert Bell, vice-president of a private firm researching wind turbines.

"In the 1970's there was enough funding to finance a good wind-energy industry, but it was squandered on self-feeding mega projects," said Bell.

According to Bell this is not accidental. Innovations in small-scale technology are being developed primarily at independent companies in countries like the U.S.

In California, for example, favorable tax policies and legislation have nurtured the growth of the industry. Today the technology is tenfold cheaper than it was fifteen years ago. And 1500 megawatts — almost 10 per cent of the state's power needs — are generated in large windfarms containing thousands of propeller-type wind turbines.

In Canada, on the other hand, large government agencies dominate the industry. The National Research Council has even opposed the use of small-scale wind power abroad. Throughout the past decade it has forbidden the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) from buying privately

produced wind turbines for their projects in the developing world, said Bell.

"It wants to keep their monopoly of wind energy devices, so it blocks CIDA from buying privately built turbines" added Bell.

Mature technology

Mechanical engineering professor Gordon Fekete researched wind power as an option for the Magdalen Islands, and he believes long-term support for the industry will make wind technology viable.

"You want a mature technology and unless something is supported long enough you don't get this," said Fekete.

Fekete thinks growing resistance to the Great Whale Hydro-Québec project, and the recent moratorium on nuclear power in Ontario reflects an attitude which Fekete describes as an awareness of "what the real cost is to society, humanity and the earth."

Depending on how the cost of power generation is accounted, the cost of acid rain, radioactive waste disposal, strip mining, oil spills and thermal pollution tip the scales in favour of wind power.

Wind power is not without its own environmental costs. Visual impact, noise, and animal and human safety are limiting factors in the exploitation of wind energy. Because wind energy is relatively dilute, it takes several thousand turbines to match the energy output of a conventional power station.

Fortunately, the central part of North America contains the most favourable locations for wind farms, where ranching and grain production are major industries. Wind turbines interfere little with farming. Californian ranchers lost only about 5 per cent of their grazing land allowing the cattle to feed around the wind machines.

Noise is no longer a concern with modern wind turbines and fiberglass or composite blade designs avoid radio or television interference.

Smaller is better

Small-scale wind energy isn't only being targeted at the developing world. In Canada, those who can't afford to hook up with the giant energy networks like Hydro-



Québec, have looked to it as a potential solution.

Many isolated research stations, farms and northern settlements depend on diesel generators running on fuel which must be flown in at substantial cost.

"When it costs someone \$20 000 per kilometer to bring electricity to their home from the nearest power line, wind power can provide the same current for a fraction of the cost" said Louis Beaulieu, president of Sambrabec, a Québécois company specializing in technology transfers to developing nations.

Among other projects, Sambrabec has developed the 'catavent', an innovative wind-harnessing design.

Although the catavent was designed to satisfy small energy requirements to isolated communities and industries in the developing world, the city of Montréal has become Sambrabec's first customer.

In June the catavent will begin pumping water to the marshes of Parc de la Rivière de Prairie in the city's east end.

"The wind turbine will serve as an educational tool to visitors because it is very visual example of ecologically-safe technology," said park planner Norman Mattieu.

A cool history of hot air

Wind energy has been used for centuries. The pumping of water, the grinding of grain and corn, and the propulsion of ships have all utilized the power of the wind. Plans to use wind turbines for irrigation date back to the seventeenth century B.C. Wind turbines played an important role in the settling of the American West.

Millions of wind turbines pumped water and supplied electricity to American farmers until

the mid-1930's, when the American government established the Rural Electric Administration as a means of supporting the post-war economy.

Interest in wind power has decreased since cheap and plentiful petroleum became available, reviving only when oil supplies are threatened, as happened in 1973 during the oil embargo, and as has happened with the current war in the Persian Gulf.